

August 31, 1956

Dear Boris:

Your letter #2, 8/27/56, just received. This is the first I have had from you in Chile.

I am glad you are learning the problems of being an "administrator" but hope they won't keep you too long from research.

Monod sent a ms. a few weeks ago on "galactoside-permease" (i.e., the "y" system.) I am far from convinced that the accumulation of TMG has anything to do with the rate of its penetration. He says that it is inhibited (both in formation and in action by azide or DNP) but ignores the fact (I think we agree on this) that azide does not influence NPGase activity of intact cells. I have passed the ms. on to Sol with instructions for him to forward it to you. It would be useful, but not essential, for you to see it in connection with the discussion of your paper on activation (which I hope you are busy writing).

In the lab., Sol has switched entirely over to K-12 protoplasts, and I have been busy making and sending him various mutant stocks. He thinks he can use RNA from Lac⁺ to repair the formation of NPGase by protoplasts of Lac⁻, but I hope this is a real result. Since returning from vacation and finishing the pile of paperwork on my desk, I have been busy with the propagation of protoplasts as L-forms. Dienes actually has a nearly intelligible paper on this (J. Bact., May 1949). The protoplasts will form small L-colonies in agar, apparently by budding, though they will not divide in liquid. The conditions for this are very tricky; I am trying to work them out now.

I will be quite happy to function as your agent on the terms of your letter. I will arrange to have the mail forwarded to me right away. If the P.O. gives any trouble, I will write you for a letter of authorization. Should I wait to hear from Mann before forwarding orders to them? There were a few orders which I did handle for you already (Bernie 1 gram; Dexter, 2 gms. — the small funds as "commission" from this might be considered for incidental expenses; e.g., \$3.36 for shipping charges to Mann.)

I am not exactly clear how the billing will be handled for orders through the Q.C. Ltda. Will Mann take care of the invoice, or should the invoice be sent from here? Are there any current accounts to worry about? Do you have a bank account here? (into which to make any deposits)? And if you do confirm the arrangement, it might be important for me to have from you a "letter of agency".

A man from DuPont called a few weeks ago— unfortunately I did not get his name, but he is one of your previous customers. His letter to Q.C. had been forwarded to Mann, and they quoted him a price of \$30 per gram. If you have a definite agreement with Mann about the price, or at least that Q.C. can accept orders at \$20, he should be notified of this. Can you get me his name? (He was rather annoyed at the price rise: I told him to fill his immediate needs with Mann, and to get back in touch with me for further requirements).

We had hoped Raquel would be stimulated by returning home, &